

Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 USSS-00 SSO-00

PRS-01 NSC-05 CCO-00 CPR-01 /043 W

----- 102359

P 201758Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5674

INFO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

WHITE HOUSE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 14874

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (ROCKEFELLER, NELSON)

SUBJECT: VICE PRESIDENTIAL VISIT

REF: STATE 228299; LONDON 14721

1. BRITISH GOVERNMENT, ARTS COUNCIL OF GREAT BRITAIN AND BRITISH-AMERICAN ASSOCIATES NOTIFIED OF VICE PRESIDENT'S UPCOMING VISIT.
2. WITH VICE PRESIDENT'S PARTICIPATION, BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S REPRESENTATION IS BEING CHANGED. WILL PROVIDE NAMES, DETAILED PROGRAM ASAP.
3. CEREMONIES ON 5 OCTOBER INCLUDE PREVIEW OF "SACRED CIRCLES: TWO THOUSAND YEARS OF NORTH AMERICAN INDIAN ART" AT HAYWARD GALLERY, SOUTH BANK, 5-8PM: THEN RECEPTION AT BANQUETING HOUSE, WHITEHALL, FROM 8-10PM. VICE PRESIDENT, AMBASSADOR ARMSTRONG, TWO BRITISH REPRESENTATIVES EXPECTED MAKE REMARKS OF ABOUT THREE MINUTES DURATION. VICE PRESIDENT WILL HAVE PLACE OF HONOR.
4. FIRST CUT AT SUGGESTED REMARKS FOLLOW:

"I AM DELIGHTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OPENING OF THIS
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AMBITIOUS AND REMARKABLE EXHIBITION. MY PLEASURE,

FRANKLY, HAS SEVERAL DIMENSIONS.

"FIRST, OF COURSE, IT IS THE PRIVILEGE OF SEEING THIS MAGNIFICANT DISPLAY. THE ART WORLD HAS BEEN NEGLIGENT ALL THESE YEARS IN FAILING TO RECOGNIZE WHAT IS OBVIOUSLY AN ARRESTING AND SIGNIFICANT DIMENSION IN MAN'S ATTEMPT TO GIVE MEANING AND BEAUTY TO HIS LIFE.

"THIS IS A SIGNIFICANCE TO THIS EXHIBITION THAT EXTENDS WELL BEYOND THE PURSUIT OF ART ITSELF -- OR BEAUTY ITSELF. THE WORKS YOU HAVE SEEN WERE NOT MADE TO HANG ON WALLS.

"EVERYTHING HERE WAS MADE TO BE USED IN SOME WAY. YET- THE DRIVE TO GIVE WHAT IS FUNCTIONAL A PERSONALITY AND DISTINCTIVENESS IS CLEARLY SEEN IN EVERY DISPLAY. IT RAISES WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED A CRAFT TO THE LEVEL OF ART.

"I AM CONVINCED THIS EXHIBITION IS GOING TO BE A GREAT SUCCESS, AND THE REASON IS NOT ONLY THAT IT IS HANDSOME AND COLORFUL, WHICH IT IS. RATHER, IT IS ALSO BECAUSE THE INDIANS OF NORTH AMERICA HAVE BEEN -- AND REMAIN -- A PEOPLE OF ABSORBING INTEREST THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

"THEY HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED TO MYTH AND MISUNDERSTANDING AS PERHAPS HAVE NO OTHER PEOPLE. WRONGLY, THEY HAVE, AT VARIOUS TIMES, BEEN ROMANTICIZED AND RIDICULED; TRAGICALLY, THEY HAVE BEEN PERSECUTED AND ISOLATED.

"THE TRUTH IS THAT AMERICA'S INDIAN COMMUNITY OF TODAY -- ALMOST ONE MILLION STRONG -- IS AS COMPLEX AS IS THE REST OF AMERICAN SOCIETY, AS DIVERSE IN THEIR OWN VIEWS OF WHAT IS RIGHT OR WRONG FOR THEM AS ARE OUR OTHER CULTURAL GROUPS. THEY ARE NEITHER ANGELIC NOR DEMONS. IN BRIEF, THEY WANT TO SHARE IN AMERICA'S PROSPERITY AND THEY WANT TO RETAIN THEIR DISTINCTIVE CULTURAL LIFE.

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"FOR TWO HUNDRED YEARS, OUR GOVERNMENT MADE WIDE SWINGS IN ITS ATTEMPTS TO FIND THE PROPER COURSE. IT MOVED FROM AN EARLY POLICY OF FORCED ASSIMILATION TO ONE OF PROTECTIVE PATERNALISM. NOW, FINALLY, WE BELIEVE THE ANSWER IS IN SIGHT.

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INFO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

WHITE HOUSE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 14874

"THE PRESENT POLICY PROVIDES FREEDOM OF CHOICE FOR AMERICA'S INDIANS; THEY NOW HAVE THE POWER AND AUTHORITY TO DECIDE WHAT IS BEST FOR THEM AND THE RIGHT TO ADMINISTER THEIR OWN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS.

"THIS APPROACH REFLECTS THE FINEST VALUES IN AMERICAN SOCIETY. WE CANNOT, SHOULD NOT, FORCE ASSIMILATION; WE CANNOT, SHOULD NOT, ENCOURAGE SEPARATION.

"FREEDOM OF CHOICE IS THE ESSENCE OF OUR NATIONAL LIFE, AND WE HAVE EXTENDED IT, FINALLY, TO THE FIRST AMERICANS

"ONE OF OUR FAMED AUTHORS, ZANE GREY, WROTE A GENERATION AGO OF THE INDIAN -- THAT "MELANCHOLY FIGURE," HE SAID, "DIMINISHING, FADING, VANISHING -- VANISHING."

"I'M GLAD TO SAY THIS IS NO LONGER THE CASE; AMERICA'S INDIANS ARE MORE VISABLE TODAY THAN EVER -- IN OUR POLITICAL LIFE AND IN OUR CULTURAL LIFE. THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE RICHNESS OF AMERICAN SOCIETY ARE

MOUNTING STEADILY AS THEIR VAST TALENTS ARE NURTURED BY THEIR OWN SELF-DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS.

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"THE AMERICAN INDIANS ARE ACHIEVING THEIR RIGHTFUL PLACE IN AMERICAN SOCIETY. AT THE SAME TIME, THEY ARE RETAINING THEIR TRADITIONAL CUSTOMS AND PASSING THEM ON TO THE INCREASING NUMBERS OF THE NEW GENERATION.

"IT IS NOT AN EASY ROAD, THIS ATTEMPT TO SUSTAIN DIFFERING CULTURES IN A SOCIETY THAT OFTEN DEMANDS CONFORMITY. BUT WE THINK WE ARE ON THE RIGHT PATH, FINALLY, AFTER THE DECADES OF EXPERIMENT AND FAILURE.

"I NOTED AT THE OUTSET THAT I WAS GLAD TO BE HERE FOR THIS REMARKABLE EXHIBIT. INDEED, IT IS AN HONOR TO JOIN YOU IN TRIBUTE TO PEOPLE AND A CULTURE THAT, THROUGH SHEER FORTITUDE, HAS ENDURED FOR TWO MILLENNIA OR MORE AGAINST OVERWHELMING OBSTACLES.

"THE OTHER REASON I AM DELIGHTED TO BE HERE IS THAT I AM BACK IN LONDON, A CITY THAT HAS MEANT MUCH TO ME OVER THE YEARS... AND TO BE WITH FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES OF MANY YEARS. IT IS GOOD TO BE HERE WITH YOU -- AND YOU HAVE MY BEST WISHES FOR A MOST SUCCESSFUL AND EXCITING EXHIBITION."

5. WILL CABLE SUGGESTIONS TOMORROW FOR MEDIA ACTIVITIES.
ARMSTRONG

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